

20 Aug 57

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Dear GWR -

I spent Tuesday sorting out the mass of material, seeing what there was that needed to be done, and trying to sort it out into a logical work schedule.

I also showed Lynch the memo you left behind expressing appreciation for past cooperation and requesting continuance of same re our security etc. He did not receive it at all well - apparently objected to some implications of the thing - what exactly, I don't know, - but then - you know he is. He gets these sudden brainstorm but they pass over quickly.

Less than an hour later he called me in and asked to confirm a report given him by Jarallah to the effect that the King had had some of his people try to assassinate Mustapha Taher - it was a pretty hair-raising tale complete with a 15 minute gun battle on Jabal Hussayn etc. After thinking it over carefully I decided there must be some grain of truth in the thing and, in view of of

- a) a desire to placate Lynch and get along with him, in order to assure of his continuing cooperation, and
- b) a desire to confirm the report if true,

I called [] in and mentioned to him that I was aware (as a result of my having acted as a courier for him at Ramallah on the occasion of the Dulles fracas) that he was keeping you apprised of certain local developments - and also that you had mentioned that he might give me some material to pass on to you. He agreed and said yes and appeared ~~to~~ quite willing to go along with me from that point (He would !!). I then spelled out to him that in connection with my [] I was interested in confirming a reported attempted murder of Mustapha Taher, since Taher is one of the leading journalists. [] seemed to buy the logic of this approach. He immediately spilled a long tale about the King, The Queen mother, hashhish smuggling, Abul Huda, etc - but had nothing concise of the Taher story. He volunteered to see what he could get. At that point I emphasized that this type of work is common and quite in order for an [] but there was a certain fine distinction between a natural [] desire to keep well informed, and a tempting to dig too deeply into matters that aren't really our business. I said we expected him to exercise all possible discretion ~~and~~ in order to avoid any possibility of putting anyone, including himself, in an awkward position. He said he would and left. He got the loudown (or at least ~~some~~ some of it) from [] and various other pals of his. So I was able to give Lynch a fairly decent summary the next day. I didn't give him all the details, nor anything which would reveal the channels. I've still got to go through the material carefully and see whether some of it should be shot in tomorrow. Everything came to a dead halt on Wednesday, I regret to inform you, as the result of the sudden death of little Hilary Wallace of polio. When I made the routine offer to "help in any way I can", Lynch took me up on it and ~~continued~~ kept me with him all day ~~as~~ helping make the funeral arrangements etc.

We're all most grateful that you and Marcia and little Tony have left town - Hilary was taken on Monday with ordinary "Jordan Jumps" - on Tuesday it didn't improve and they thought it might be typhoid, but took a blood test and found not **Secret** help to the Italian Hospital Tuesday afternoon. Late that afternoon they noticed a malfunctioning of the limb and rushed her to the RAF hospital and put her in the iron lung - but it was too late to do anything, under any circumstances. SECURITY INFORMATION

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The disease struck terribly abruptly and took the child around the waist - so that it was almost at the lungs before they knew what it was. She died at 1030 Wednesday, and is being buried at 1000 Thursday, July 30. Pat took it very well and suffered no untoward effect with respect to the unborn child. Bob took it very hard, but came out of it after the first few hours.

Not much else to report for now - more next week.

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